

**SENATE, No. 1599**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**219th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator RICHARD J. CODEY**

**District 27 (Essex and Morris)**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Establishes Statewide database of beds in shelters for the homeless.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning emergency shelters for the homeless and  
2 supplementing P.L.1983, c.530 (C.55:14K-1 et seq.).  
3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*  
6

7 1. The New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency  
8 shall allow operators of shelters for the homeless and selected local  
9 information and referral providers who place persons in the shelters  
10 to have access to real-time information about the occupancy status  
11 of shelter beds in the State, as collected by the Homeless  
12 Management Information System, in order to determine the  
13 availability of shelter beds in the community or within a certain  
14 geographic area. Shelter operators shall update information in the  
15 Homeless Management Information System about the availability of  
16 shelter beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available,  
17 or an available bed has been filled.

18 The provisions of this section shall not apply to shelters for  
19 victims of domestic violence.  
20

21 2. A shelter for the homeless, except a shelter for victims of  
22 domestic violence, which is subject to regulation by the Department of  
23 Community Affairs pursuant to N.J.A.C.5:15-1.1 et seq., shall  
24 cooperate in providing any necessary information to the database, as  
25 determined by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance  
26 Agency, the Department of Community Affairs, and the Department of  
27 Human Services, as a condition of being eligible to receive funding for  
28 the shelter from the Department of Community Affairs and the  
29 Department of Human Services.

30 A shelter operator shall update information in the Homeless  
31 Management Information System about the availability of shelter  
32 beds not later than one hour after a bed becomes available, or an  
33 available bed has been filled.  
34

35 3. This act shall take effect on the 60th day following  
36 enactment.  
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39 STATEMENT  
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41 This bill would require the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage  
42 Finance Agency (HMFA) to allow operators of shelters for the  
43 homeless and others who place persons in homeless shelters to have  
44 access to real-time information about the occupancy status of  
45 shelter beds, as collected by the Homeless Management Information  
46 System (HMIS), to determine the availability of shelter beds in the  
47 vicinity. Each homeless shelter operator would be required to  
48 update information about available shelter beds not later than one

1 hour after a bed becomes available, or an available bed has been  
2 filled. These provisions will allow operators of homeless shelters  
3 that are currently full to ascertain whether there are available beds  
4 in nearby shelters so as to enable them to direct individuals in need  
5 of emergency shelter to locations that can accommodate them.

6 This bill also requires a shelter for the homeless to cooperate in  
7 providing any necessary information to the database, as determined  
8 by the HMFA, the Department of Community Affairs, and the  
9 Department of Human Services, as a condition of being eligible to  
10 receive funding for the shelter from the Departments of Community  
11 Affairs and Human Services.

12 The bill would not apply to shelters for victims of domestic  
13 violence.